42. Economic Depression.

MR. KURUVILA JOHN (*Karunagapalli taluk, Group II*) speaking in Malayalam referred to the fall in the price of the agricultural products and the consequent economic depression in the State. He welcomed the proposal of the Government to appoint a committee to investigate and report about the causes of the present trade depression. The member referred in particular to the poverty of the people and their financial strain, with reference to Karunagapalli taluk, represented by him and suggested the following remedial measures :—

1. Proportionate reduction of land tax, till the prices of the agricultural products improve.

2. Reduction of customs duties on articles of exports, proportionate to the reduction in the price of such articles.

3. Remission of licence fees for fishing boats.

4. Suspension of all *chitties* for amounts above Rs. 100.

5. Immediate appointment of Trade Agents in foreign markets.

6. Bringing into force the Village Panchayat Regulation.

7. Increasing the allotment for agricultural loans and formulating a new scheme under which the poor agriculturists could get the benefit of the loans.

8. Introduction of a uniform rate of motor hire throughout the State.

9. Encouragement of cottage industries such as coir-making, mat-making, etc., by rendering financial help through co-operative societies and banks.

10. Encouragement of the temperance movement.

11. Reduction of the pay of Government servants getting above Rs. 50 per mensem.

12. Suspension of public works which were not urgent.

43. Economic Depression.

MR. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam taluk*) speaking in Malayalam dwelt upon the great economic depression prevailing in the country. There was an unprecedented fall in the prices of indigenous products and very great scarcity of money in the land. The fall in the price of articles was not due to overproduction but mainly on account of want of facilities for the development of industries. The attention of the Industries Department should be devoted to the question of utilising the raw products of the country for the manufacture of articles required for local consumption. The industries connected with copra, coir, rubber and tapioca, so largely produced in the country, should be developed. No useful purpose was at present served by the Industries Department. The one department which could achieve a great deal towards solving the growing unemployment problem in the State was the Industries Department. The weaving branch of